

homes. In these cases, youth should know that there are options. They do not have to run and live on the streets. They can make the abuse stop. They can get counseling, they can continue their education, they can remain fully contributing members of society. There are alternatives. We need to educate our youth as to where those alternatives are.

That is what this bill helps do. The National Network for Youth and the National Runaway Switchboard use the month of November to publicize their efforts and educate people about those alternatives. National Runaway Prevention Month provides a vital service in informing both at-risk youth and their parents that communication is essential. This resolution before us demonstrates that the House of Representatives recognizes the service that these organizations provide.

I was very proud to introduce and cosponsor this resolution with the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), and I urge the House to join us in passing it today so that we may save families and save lives.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would just again commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) for the introduction of this resolution and the work that they have done on it. It is an important one.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will simply close by saying that I would also like to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

The scope or magnitude of this problem is simply staggering. The gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) mentioned that there are 1.3 million children on the streets, either because of running away or because of homelessness. Probably the most conservative study I have seen on this says there are a minimum of 450,000 children who run away from homes all across this Nation each year.

As I mentioned in my opening statement, I was so amazed when I heard, as I was driving to the airport one afternoon here in Washington, I heard on the CBS National Radio News that the national head of the YMCA said children are being neglected in this country today like never before. Unfortunately, children have more material wealth today than probably ever before, but there are also many, many, many children who are growing up without the love or discipline that they had in past years or, perhaps because of broken homes or parents working long hours, they are not getting the attention that they need and deserve.

I have said before that children today would be far better off with a few less toys and designer fashions and another brother or sister, or certainly more attention from their parents.

So this resolution is a small, but important, step in trying to do something about a very serious national problem; and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 57.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1215

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR CELEBRATION IN 2004 OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRAND EXCURSION OF 1854

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 44) to express support for the celebration in 2004 of the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion of 1854.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 44

Whereas reaching the shores of the Mississippi River represented a major milestone for the westward expansion of the system of railroad infrastructure that began on the East Coast in the 1830s;

Whereas in 1854 the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad became the first railroad to reach the Mississippi River and that achievement was celebrated with a combined railroad and riverboat trip known as the "Grand Excursion of 1854";

Whereas the Grand Excursion of 1854 began in Chicago with a gathering of more than 1,000 dignitaries from professions encompassing the fields of government, education, business, journalism, and the arts, and included most prominently former United States President Millard Fillmore;

Whereas the excursion party of 1854 traveled from Chicago, Illinois, to Rock Island, Illinois, by train and then proceeded by boat from Rock Island to the present-day twin cities of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and St. Paul, Minnesota;

Whereas the Grand Excursion of 1854 is credited both with bringing the upper Mississippi Valley into the national spotlight and with solidifying Chicago's role as a major transportation hub;

Whereas communities located on the 419 mile stretch between Rock Island and Minneapolis are investing more than \$5,000,000,000 in recreational, commercial, and environmental improvements to prepare for the celebration of the Grand Excursion in 2004;

Whereas an educational program in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota will bring the history of the Mississippi River to life for thousands of students from kindergarten through 12th grade and will focus on the recreational, environmental, and commercial importance of the river;

Whereas the Grand Excursion celebration of 2004 will establish a series of permanent exhibits throughout the upper Mississippi River, recognizing the achievements of the many communities and celebrating the history of the Mississippi River;

Whereas the Grand Excursion, through its local, regional, national, and international marketing programs and initiatives, will communicate to the world the incredible attributes of the upper Mississippi River, and will invite hundreds of thousands of visitors to the region to celebrate;

Whereas the National Park Service, along with other Federal, State, and local agencies and many other interested groups, is preparing activities to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the Grand Excursion in 2004, to educate local residents and visitors about the attributes of the river, and to commemorate the occasion by establishing future traditions that will improve community connections to the river; and

Whereas Grand Excursion, Inc. is organizing and coordinating the celebration in 2004 of the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion of 1854: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) expresses its support for the work of all the Federal, State, and local entities, and the work of all interested groups that are preparing sesquicentennial activities to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion of 1854;

(2) expresses its support for the events to be held in observance of the Grand Excursion of 1854 in Chicago, Rock Island, Moline, and Galena, Illinois, in Davenport, Clinton, and Dubuque, Iowa, in Prairie du Chien and La Crosse, Wisconsin, in Wabasha, Winona, Red Wing, Saint Paul, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, and in many other communities during the sesquicentennial observance; and

(3) calls on the President of the United States, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Defense, the Assistant Secretary of the Army, the Director of the National Park Service, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, other public officials, and the citizens of the United States to support, promote, and participate in the many sesquicentennial activities being planned to commemorate the Grand Excursion of 1854.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 44, introduced by our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), expresses support for the celebration in 2004 of the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion of 1854.

Mr. Speaker, during the summer of 1854, the Chicago Tribune sponsored a trip for around 1,000 well-regarded east coast journalists, artists, businessmen and others to visit the great Midwest.

The Tribune wanted to expose this influential group to American culture west of the east coast.

These people traveled through Chicago and on to Rock Island, Illinois, by train, and then boarded a steamboat to head to the Twin City area of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. This event, called the Grand Excursion of 1854, is credited with having massively impacted the development of the Upper Mississippi River Valley and greatly promoted westward expansion in the United States as a whole.

Many communities and organizations in the Mississippi River Valley have celebrations planned for the summer of 2004 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of this momentous event. Therefore, I urge all Members to join in this tribute by supporting the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 44. I thank our colleague, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), for introducing this important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 44, a concurrent resolution to express support for the celebration in 2004 of the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion of 1854.

Mr. Speaker, the Grand Excursion of 1854 represents a major turning point of the settlement and expansion of the Upper Mississippi River. It started out simply as a celebration of America's first railroad link to the Mississippi River from Chicago to Rock Island. Over 1,200 dignitaries, politicians, journalists, and businessmen, including former President Millard Fillmore, boarded a rail car in Chicago for Rock Island, Illinois. This group transferred to a fleet of at least five steamboats for a trip up the Mississippi to St. Paul, Minnesota, then traveled by horseback and wagon to view the falls of St. Anthony in what is now known as Minneapolis.

When the travelers wrote home about their great adventure, word spread about what a splendid place that part of America was. The next year, the upper Mississippi saw twice the number of visitors as the previous year.

The 2004 Grand Excursion is a regional initiative designed to recognize and celebrate the incredible renaissance that has occurred throughout the upper reaches of America's river, the Mississippi. As of December 2, 2002, 48 communities and 22 regional organizations, including Moline, Illinois, have endorsed and will participate in the Grand Excursion.

The 2004 excursion is designed to celebrate the capital improvements, along with the environmental and ecological changes, that have made the upper Mississippi one of the cleanest stretches of river in the country. Steamboats, river boats, and trains will be used to honor the spirit of the

1854 Grand Excursion to draw national and international attention to the lasting legacies of the 1854 excursion.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 44.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), for yielding time to me, and for his thoughtfulness in bringing this resolution. I also thank our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), for his input into the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when we as a country are galvanized by a singular international event, it is important to deal with normalcy. It is particularly uplifting to discuss history.

The resolution before us speaks to an event a century and a half ago, the Grand Excursion of 1854, which symbolizes the energy of the railroads from the east meeting and crossing our country's greatest river at what we now call the Quad Cities.

The excursion party of 1854 traveled from Chicago, the home of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), to Rock Island by train, proceeding then by boat from the Quad Cities to the present day Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota.

Among the 1,200 participants in the initial excursion was our 13th President, Millard Fillmore. In the first year after the trip, steamboat traffic from St. Paul doubled and 30,000 new immigrants traveled the Mississippi River. The power of the river as a force for commerce, along with its magic and beauty, drew increasingly greater numbers of people as the years continued.

The second Grand Excursion, the one which will take place in 2004, builds on the history of the Grand Excursion of 1854 to bring together the communities of the Upper Mississippi River in a celebration of national and international proportions. The capstone event of the celebration will be a grand flotilla which will retrace the path of the original trip made 150 years ago.

Featuring the finest river boats from all reaches of the inland waterways, this journey along the upper Mississippi will not only recall a time gone by, but bring the attention of the Nation and the world to the Mississippi River.

From the Quad Cities to the Twin Cities, over 50,000 opportunities exist to board authentic river boats, steam boats, or rail cars for sightseeing trips or excursions up river from one community celebration to the next. It is anticipated that people from around the world will join in community celebrations, activities and programs highlighting local and regional accomplishments along the way.

For the last 10 to 15 years, communities have been working together to

reclaim their relationship with the Mississippi and reestablish vibrant riverfront communities. Over 50 communities along the 419-mile route are investing millions of dollars, in fact billions of dollars, in recreational, commercial, and environmental improvements as part of preparation for the celebration, but more importantly, as permanent improvements in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, let me stress that the early history of my State, that of Iowa, is the history of Native Americans and then European, African, and Asian settlers finding the Mississippi River basin bountiful and beautiful.

As word of the majesty and opportunity of the area spread to new generations of Americans, commerce and industry followed. The trains from the east and the boats from the north and south brought excitement and adventure to a land destined for greatness. It is this greatness that we celebrate, and it is this greatness that its citizens who are so privileged to live along this great waterway pledge to preserve and enhance in this particular set of commitments related to this particular celebration.

I thank again the distinguished chairman and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for their thoughtfulness.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) for bringing this tremendous event to our attention. I had the good fortune to drive from Chicago to Rock Island 2 weeks ago, and it is indeed tremendous territory. Looking at the mighty Mississippi is a delight in and of itself.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 44, which recognizes the contributions of the many Mississippi River communities which are planning events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion that took place in 1854. In 1854, the Grand Excursion was truly a historic event. It brought nationwide attention to the Upper Mississippi River and led Minnesota to statehood.

This excursion transformed our entire region, bringing prosperity and economic growth. However, over time the development that followed separated the people from the river. Transportation and industry walled communities off from the Mississippi, and pollution took its toll. Now we are working to reclaim our relationship with the mighty Mississippi.

In preparing to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion, communities all along the 419-mile route are redeveloping their river fronts. Citizens and business groups have joined with State and local governments to renew their commitment

to this great international resource. River fronts are being revitalized, and our quality of life is being improved.

St. Paul, for example, has turned the Mississippi River back into our community's gathering place. On Harriet Island, the Target Stage is a place for the world-renowned St. Paul Chamber Orchestra to play on summer nights, while people overlook St. Paul's downtown skyline or walk along the river.

New projects are also planned to help reconnect St. Paul's people to its river's edge. Mr. Speaker, the Grand Excursion, the 150th anniversary celebration, is not just about recognizing these achievements; it is also an opportunity to learn about the Mississippi and what we need to do to protect it for future generations.

The Mississippi is America's river, it is Minnesota's river, and like many towns in south St. Paul where I grew up, it is a childhood river. It is also a working river, a river that continues to work. Thousands of jobs and the livelihoods of many families are connected to it.

People not only from St. Paul, from the United States, and from around the world call the Mississippi River home, but it is also home to our wildlife, from eagles in Minnesota to pelicans in the Delta Bay of Louisiana.

Activities associated with the Grand Excursion's anniversary will bring its historical, cultural, and environmental importance alive for thousands of people. Hundreds of permanent exhibits will be established honoring the river's past and looking towards the river's future.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to have an opportunity to support this resolution today. As an original cosponsor, I look forward to continuing working with the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and others to bring attention to this national treasure, our Mississippi River, and to this exciting national event, the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I simply reiterate, Mr. Speaker, that this has been a tremendous event and will be a tremendous event. I strongly support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will simply close by saying that my mother spent all of her life from her birth to the end of her college years, in Iowa. I still have relatives in the great State of Iowa. Thus, it has been an honor for me to help bring this resolution to the floor, along with the chief sponsor, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), and to recognize a very important part of this great Nation.

I urge all Members to support this resolution.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer my strong support of this legislation an-

icipating next year's 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion of 1854, offered by my colleague, Mr. LEACH.

The Grand Excursion is regarded as one of the greatest promotional trips ever devised in our Nation's history—one that changed the face of the upper Mississippi River.

In 1854, the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad became the first railroad to reach the Mississippi River. To celebrate, the owners and contractors for the railroad proposed an excursion for a select group of stockholders, friends, and family.

But word spread quickly about the occasion, resulting in a 1,200-person entourage traveling from Rock Island, IL to the Falls of St. Anthony—now known as Minneapolis, MN.

According to the Chicago Tribune, the excursionists were considered "the most brilliant ever assembled in the West": statesmen, historians, diplomats, poets, and newspaper editors. As the media wrote home to their newspapers, word spread about the wonders of the Nation's "dark interior".

This event turned into an opportunity to show some of our Nation's most influential people the fantastic beauty, numerous resources, and the unlimited opportunities that the Mississippi River and the West could provide.

The year after, steamboat traffic along the upper Mississippi River doubled, flooding the region with new settlers. The Grant Excursion also brought millions of dollars of investment to the area and positioned the upper Mississippi region as a dominant force in the development of the Nation in the 19th century.

The Grand Excursion of 2004 is an opportunity to draw awareness from around the Nation and around the world about the recreational, commercial and environmental opportunities the Mississippi River provides. In addition to the "Grand Flotilla"—the retracing of the Grand Excursion's journey by trains, paddlewheelers, and steamboats—over 50 communities along the 419-mile route, many in my district, will hold festivals and educational events to commemorate the event's sesquicentennial. And those who are unable to participate first-hand in the celebrations will be able to experience the excitement through a dynamic website and through "exploration trunks" that will be provided with curriculum to classrooms throughout the region.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution of America's celebration of the Mississippi River: the Grant Excursion of 2004.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 44, a resolution expressing support for 150th anniversary celebrations of the Grand Excursion of 1854.

In 1854, the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad became the first American railroad to reach the shores of the Mississippi River. To celebrate the achievement, a combined railroad and riverboat trip was organized. A group of 1,000 dignitaries including journalists, educators, and business representatives gathered in Chicago to start their journey. The Grand Excursion, as it became known, traveled by train for Rock Island, IL. From there, the journey proceeded by riverboat on the Mississippi River to the present-day twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN.

The Mississippi is widely and appropriately recognized as "America's River." Today's Mississippi is a vital artery for commerce, eco-

nomic development and tourism in Iowa's communities along the river. The river has shaped much of the Nation's history and will be a vital element for Iowa's future.

Next year, events are planned to mark the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion all along its 419-mile route. In my Iowa district, these events include celebrations in the riverside cities of Davenport, Clinton, and Dubuque. These exciting celebrations will share with the world the incredible attributes of the upper Mississippi River. Thousands of visitors will learn more about the river's role in America's history, and will learn more about Eastern Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of the communities celebrating this historic trek's anniversary. I look forward to welcoming visitors from around the world to experience our mighty Mississippi. As Captain Russell Blakeley said in 1894, "the success of [the Grand Excursion] did more than the best laid plans for advertising the country than has ever been made since. . . . Good results came back to us in a thousand ways and for many years."

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to add my voice to those celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Grand Excursion of 1854. This was an important journey in the upper Mississippi River valley that incorporated rail and steamboat travel and went from Chicago, Illinois to Saint Paul, Minnesota, and to the Falls of Saint Anthony. This trip began as a promotion by the Rock Island Railroad, the first railroad to reach the Mississippi and ended up transporting more than a thousand businessmen, statesmen, journalists, and others, including President Millard Fillmore, into the West. The Grand Excursion brought recognition and interest to the natural beauty and economic potential of the upper Mississippi River valley.

The Grand Excursion helped open up the upper Mississippi River area, which includes Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, creating a number of communities all along the river. My district includes the city of Rock Island, the starting point for the riverboat journey, and many other communities that flourished. The prosperity of much of the Midwest was due to the development of the Mississippi River and the interest that developed in the valley's natural resources and access to the west.

This year, in honor of the 150th anniversary, many of the communities that took part in the original Grand Excursion are educating their residents and tourists about the trip and celebrating the success of the excursion. I support this resolution as it recognizes both the importance of the 1854 trip and of the 2004 commemoration. Communities such as Rock Island and Moline, Illinois are taking part through education programs linked to the original journal, environmental projects linked to the River, and development plans linked to the waterfront. I support these efforts, and hope that the Administration will help celebrate and commemorate this important historic event.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 44.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MICHAEL J. HEALY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 825) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7401 West 100th place in Bridgeview, Illinois, as the "Michael J. Healy Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 825

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MICHAEL J. HEALY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7401 West 100th Place in Bridgeview, Illinois, and known as the Moraine Valley Post Office, shall be known and designated as the "Michael J. Healy Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Michael J. Healy Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

□ 1230

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 825 was introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), our distinguished colleague and my great friend and one of our most outstanding Members of this body. This bill redesignates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7401 West 100th Place in Bridgeview, Illinois, as the Michael J. Healy Post Office Building. The entire delegation from the State of Illinois has signed on as cosponsors of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Michael Healy is a heartbreaking one. On June 21, 1981, Michael Healy was a 26-year-old postal police officer who worked at a downtown Chicago post office building. During an attempted robbery of the facility that day, Officer Healy was shot and killed by one of three assail-

ants, becoming the first officer of the Postal Inspection Service ever to be murdered in the line of duty.

The Postal Service has had to deal with a variety of tragedies over the years, most recently the anthrax mailings of fall, 2001, and last year's pipe bombings in mailboxes across the Midwest.

This legislation would appropriately rename one of the U.S. Postal Service's Buildings after one of its very own heroes, Officer Michael J. Healy, who died fighting criminals who attacked our Nation's postal system. Therefore, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 825.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for introducing this important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform's Subcommittee on Civil Service, Census and Agency Organization, I join my colleague in the consideration of three postal naming bills. I would like to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for the timely consideration of these measures.

For the benefit of my colleagues, the postal naming measures before us today have met the committee requirements and enjoy the support and cosponsorship of their respective State congressional delegations.

We continue the tradition of naming post offices after individuals of enormous character who have made important contributions to their community, State and country. To that end, I commend the sponsors of these postal naming bills for seeking to recognize their respective designees by naming a United States Post Office in their honor.

H.R. 825, to Redesignate the United States Postal Service located at 7401 West 100th Place in Bridgeview, Illinois, as the Michael J. Healy Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 825, which names a U.S. Post Office located in Bridgeview, Illinois, after Michael J. Healy was introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), my friend and colleague, on February 13, 2003.

On June 21, 1981, Michael Healy became the first uniformed postal police officer of the Postal Inspection Service to be killed in the line of duty. Sadly, he was slain by two assailants in a foiled robbery attempt while guarding the Chicago Main Post Office located at Harrison Avenue and Canal Street, which is now known as the Cardiss Collins Post Office.

As one of our Nation's oldest Federal law enforcement agencies, founded by Benjamin Franklin, the United States Postal Inspection Service has a long and proud and successful history of fighting criminals who attack our postal system and endanger the public.

Since its inception in 1772, the Postal Inspection Service has lost nine employees in the line of duty.

In 2001, the Chicago division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service honored the 20th anniversary of the passing of their fallen comrade and the Fraternal Order of Police has supported the effort to rename the local post office after Officer Healy.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the roughly 1,900 postal inspectors who serve as fact finders and investigators, the Inspection Service maintains a security force of approximately 1,400 uniformed postal police officers assigned to critical facilities throughout the country. Postal police officers provide perimeter security, escort high-value shipments and protect and defend postal employees. As the primary law enforcement arm of the U.S. Postal Service, the Postal Inspection Service was very ably represented by Officer Michael Healy.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is to be commended for seeking to recognize Officer Healy by designating a post office in his honor.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman DANNY DAVIS for helping to bring H.R. 825 to the floor this morning.

Today, I am very pleased to pay tribute to a fallen federal law enforcement officer and the service he represented with the highest honor. On June 21st, 1981, Officer Michael J. Healy, of the United States Postal Inspection Service, was slain by two armed assailants in a foiled robbery attempt outside of Chicago's Main Post Office. That day, Mr. Healy sadly became the first Postal Police Officer to be killed in the line of duty.

Fortunately, Michael J. Healy has not been forgotten. In fact, Healy has come to symbolize the personal risk that police officers from a relatively unrecognized federal force undertake everyday. Healy's badge #3972 was retired, and all official depictions of Postal Police Officer badges bear #3972 in honor of Healy. In 2001, The Fraternal Order of Police, National Labor Council #2 and The Postal Inspection Service gathered to remember the 20th anniversary of Healy's passing. At their gathering, the Fraternal Order of Police pledged to continue the memory of their fallen comrade, and contacted my office to discuss an appropriate memorial.

Together, we felt it would be fitting to name a federal building in Healy's honor. We felt it further appropriate that the post office nearest to Hometown, Illinois—the Healy family's "home town"—would best enshrine Officer Healy's ultimate sacrifice. Simultaneously, we felt this renaming would pay belated tribute to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

In October 2001, when letters filled with Anthrax spores were sent to several offices on Capitol Hill, the United States, and especially its Congress, became suddenly reminded of the necessity of a Postal Inspection Service. In fact, our nation's 1,400 Postal Police Officers are first responders in this unprecedented Front Line on the War on Terror—the U.S. mail system.

In 2002 alone, Postal Police Officers and Inspectors responded to 17,000 suspicious mailings, anthrax hoaxes and threats—a 100 fold increase from the previous year. Besides protecting America's post offices and 200,000